



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT READINESS CENTER
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Memo 01/344
13 Mar 20

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding Officer, Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center
To: All Redeployers of Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center

Subj: ECRC COVID-19 UPDATE #1

1. Teammates, writing you this note from the Pilot House of ECRC noting that we are all sailing in truly uncharted waters...

2. **Background.** The current higher headquarters COVID-19 travel and Restriction of Movement (ROM) guidance was generated while you all were on the flight from Germany. This newest ROM specific guidance was not promulgated to us until literally after I spoke to you. We are operating in an extremely complex and dynamic environment.

3. First and foremost, let me extend my sincere personal apologies for the track your redeployment has taken over the past 24 hours. I can only imagine your frustration, so close to being reunited with family and friends, to have this untimely and complicated "I-Stop" added to your trek home.

4. As I am sure you have observed from social and mass media, the situation with the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, continues to morph and affect more US institutions and establishments. Many entertainment venues and most major sporting events are cancelled or suspended indefinitely. As with disaster preparations, there are shortages of some food and cleaning supplies. All of this is becoming the "new norm" at least in the short term.

5. Within the Department of Defense, we have ceased to move service men and women (and their families) to and from "Level 2 & 3" countries for at least 60 days. The effects on the Navy and your fellow IA colleagues still down range are significant. While I am glad we got your group into Norfolk ahead of that travel moratorium, my team and I recognize the impromptu 14 day Restriction of Movement - just 12 hours from arriving into your berthing here at NAVSTA - is much more than a mild inconvenience.

6. Few, if any of you, had time to "provision" ahead of being ordered to your room. Further, I understand some of you had NGIS staff turn away "to go" delivery food ordered to your room last night and a few have not eaten since Thursday afternoon. This is UNSAT. I also know communications to you, as well as the other stakeholders in your plight, has seemed limited. Part of this communications challenge is functional, as we try to set up phone/text/email trees within your group, and part of it is functional as me and my staff try to get specific guidance from higher headquarters on what we are able to do to address these very real short falls.

7. **Very Important.** To be clear, per the Commanding Officer of Naval Station Norfolk, Restriction of Movement (ROM) while here at Naval Station Norfolk means all personnel in ROM status (regardless of rank) will remain in their assigned rooms for 14 days unless authorized and directed by higher authority. Naval Station Norfolk is the world's largest Naval base and cannot afford any potential COVID-19 outbreaks.

8. Here are my priorities with respect to your collective situation:

a. **Communication:** We will establish a ROM "Command & Control." It is imperative that we are able to accurately muster and be made aware of the health and well-being of each and every one of you. Captain Ned Smith, who is one of my ECRC direct reporting Commanders from down range, is also a fellow redeployer and in a ROM status with you. He will serve as my lead. We will also incorporate the inherent C2 within NMCB25 and other adhoc chains of command which will streamline this process.

b. **Feed and Care:** Working with base leadership, we will codify expectations with NGIS staff on how they can effectively service your necessary room services (toiletry, bath, linens, etc) while still offering you due dignity throughout the duration of your ROM. In addition, we will see that food vendors that are authorized to deliver on base will be afforded access to your berthing area for you to receive pre-paid/credit card food orders. A working food option from the galley is also something my team has established. You should expect significant progress and refinement on these feed and care initiatives within the next 12 - 24 hours.

c. **Post ROM Demobilization:** I have directed my staff to prepare a thoughtful plan for reintegrating you back into an expedited processing track that gets each of you out of Norfolk and on to your families and Home of Record as soon as possible thereafter. It does not get lost on me the disappointment this delay means to loved ones and its potential 2nd order ramifications to professional and personal commitments you entered into thoughtfully back at home prior to your ROM.

9. My only "ask" of you is that you, individually and collectively, remain positive, professional, and courteous with my staff, NGIS, and each other as we walk this out. You can, and should, expect that same exact courtesy in return from my team. ROM is the order, but not at the expense of your professionalism and dignity.

10. Here are some helpful points of contact in case you need anything during your time here at ECRC.

- a. ECRC CDO/ACDO: (757)763-8640 / (757)510-6308
- b. ECRC Chaplain, LCDR Trent Jessup: (757)651-5841
- c. ECRC Ombudsman, Ms. Addys Vasquez: (757)371-6277
- d. ECRC N9 Medical, HMC Barthold: (757)341-7525
- e. ECRC N00P Processing, PSC Roberto Lopez: (757)341-7459
- f. Fleet & Family Support Center: (757)444-2102
- g. Family Readiness, Mr. Jack Wood: (757)341-7450

- h. Military One Source: 1(800)342-9647
- i. Psychological Health Outreach Program (PHOP): 1(866)578-7467
- j. National Veterans Crisis Line: 1(800)273-8255

11. More to follow on the execution of these priority efforts as it develops. Thank you in advance for your patience and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Jackson", written in a cursive style.

M. J. JACKSON

